

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:XVUNOVIC:JBS

APPROVED BY: IO:DCARDWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 191855

FOR AMBASSADOR BLAKE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 191855 ACTION ALL NATO CAPITALS
BERN CANBERRA DUBLIN EC BRUSSELS GENEVA HELSINKI
MADRID

MOSCOW NICOSIA NATO STOCKHOLM USUN NEW YORK
VIENNA 30 AUGUST.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT ANDERSON ON CYPRUS SITUATION
AUGUST B0:

QUOTE: I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A STATUS REPORT ON THE CYPRUS
RELIEF EFFORT.

AS YOU KNOW, WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW WITH GREAT CONCERN AND
SYMPATHY THE SITUATION OF THE REFUGEES ON CYPRUS. AND
LAST MONDAY WE INDICATED THAT \$2.1 MILLION OF ASSISTANCE
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HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO REFUGEES IN GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS OR

BRITISH BASE AREAS ON THE ISLAND. I WOULD LIKE AGAIN TO UPDATE THAT FIGURE.

AS OF TODAY, U.S. EMERGENCY RELIEF ASSISTANCE HAS AMOUNTED TO \$3.1 MILLION IN DIRECT CASH GRANTS AND CAMPING AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND AIRLIFT COST. AND IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE HAVE PROVIDED, THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IS DONATING 6,000 BLANKETS VALUED AT \$32,000, AND AID WILL TAKE ON THE TRANSPORT COSTS FOR GETTING THOSE BLANKETS OUT.

AND, AS YOUKNOW, THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRY RELIEF ASSISTANCE HAS GENERALLY BEEN CHanneled THROUGH THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RED CROSS, AND THE ICRC IS HANDLING THE DISTRIBUTION ON CYPRUS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UN FORCES AND THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, ALONG WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CYPRUS RED CROSS AND THE RED CRESCENT.

OUR EMBASSY IN NICOSIA PARTICIPATED ON AUGUST 27 IN A MEETING OF GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ICRC AND THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND THE UNFICYP AND THE GERMAN EMBASSY. AND THE PURPOSE OF THAT MEETING WAS TO ASCERTAIN FURTHER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS AND COORDINATE WITH OTHERS IN MEETING THESE NEEDS.

Q: WHILE WE'RE DEALING WITH STATUS REPORTS, CAN YOU TELL US IF ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE STUDY REGARDING OUR MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND WHETHER IT'S IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACT?

A: I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN I DID YESTERDAY.

Q: BUT HAS THE STUDY GONE ANY FURTHER?

A: IT'S BEING WORKED ON.

Q: DOES ANY URGENCY ATTACH TO THIS OPERATION, IS THERE A DEADLINE SET FOR COMPLETING THIS REPORT SO THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT KNOWS WHETHER IT IS VIOLATING THE LAW OR NOT?

A: IT IS BEING WORKED ON, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, VERY ACTIVELY, AND THERE IS BEING VERY FULL CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO A VERY COMPLICATED PROBLEM.

Q: IS IT FAIR TO ASSUME FROM OUR SIDE, THAT WHEN AID CONTINUED TO TURKEY DURING THIS PAST MONTH IT WAS DONE

ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WAS NOT IN VIOLATION OF THE
ACT OF 1961?

A: I WOULD ASSUME THAT THAT ASSUMPTION WOULD BE A LOG-
ICAL ASSUMPTION SEEING THAT THE AID HAS CONTINUED, AS THE
SECRETARY INDICATED, THAT THE AID WAS CONTINUING.

Q: A QUESTION ON GREECE.- THERE ARE REPORTS THAT GREECE
HAS SOUGHT, OR HAS INFORMED ALL NATO GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING
THE UNITED STATES, THAT IT WILL EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY
OVER ITS BASE FACILITIES PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY
AMERICAN FORCES.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED SUCH WORD, AND CAN YOU COMMENT ON IT?

A: LET ME -- I CAN GIVE YOU VERY LITTLE ON THIS. I CAN
CONFIRM, THOUGH, THAT WE AND OTHER NATO ALLIES HAVE
RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE MEMBERSHIP OF THAT GOVERNMENT IN NATO, AND THIS WAS
DELIVERED TO OUR EMBASSY IN ATHENS AND WE NOW HAVE THE
TEXT HERE. I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE CONTENTS OF
PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS' LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

BUT, I WANT TO ADD ONE THING, AS I HAVE REPORTED HERE
BEFORE TO YOU, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF OUR MILITARY FACILITIES
IN GREECE. AND, AS YOU RECALL, I SAID, ABOUT TEN DAYS
OR TWO WEEKS AGO, THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING A VERY
THOROUGH DISCUSSION WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, WITH
REGARD TO ITS FUTURE ROLE IN THE ALLIANCE. BUT THERE
HAVE BEEN NO DISCUSSIONS AS OF NOW.

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Q: WHAT DO THOSE DISCUSSIONS AWAIT? DO THEY AWAIT
SOME GREEK INITIATIVE, OR DO THEY AWAIT SOME AMERICAN
INITIATIVE?

A: I WOULD SAY GREEK INITIATIVE.

Q: WHY?

A: BECAUSE WE HAVE SAID WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO HAVE
DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE
ASSUMING AT SOME POINT GREEK GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO
HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH US.

Q: ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT WE ARE WILLING TO RENEGOTIATE
THE BILATERAL TREATY UNDER WHICH WE HAVE THESE NAVAL

BASES AND AIR BASES IN GREECE?

A: NO, I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT AT ALL.

Q: DOES THE GREEK NOTE SUGGEST THAT?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
PRIME MINISTER'S COMMUNICATION.

Q: ASSUMING THIS WAS A LETTER OF INTENTION TO PULL ITS
FORCES OUT OF THE MILITARY ALLIANCE, THEY HAVE A YEAR TO
DO SO.

A: AS I SAID, IT DEALS WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT IN NATO, AND IT HAS GONE TO OUR OTHER NATO

ALLIES, AND I AM SURE THAT THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS OF
THIS COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, AND I JUST DON'T
WANT TO GET INTO IT NOW. UNQUOTE INGERSOLL UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE191855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:XVUNOVIC:JBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740242-0972
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974081/aaaaaakp.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT EXCERPTS OF PRESS BRIEFING BY
TAGS: PFOR, CY, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005